



The School District of Sturgeon Bay

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Dear Legislator,

The students of Wisconsin are the key to our state's future success. We know that the expectations and standards we set for children in school play a critical role in how far they go and how successful they are. The Common Core State Standards (CCSS) are part of our state's education plan to help all of our children excel and be fully prepared for life after high school. Teachers in the Sturgeon Bay School District began the process of implementing the standards soon after they were adopted by the State of Wisconsin, about three years ago. Our district has spent a considerable amount of time and money on the implementation. The Common Core Standards provide more rigor and welcomed additions to the curriculum, according to our teachers.

Recently, the legislature and others have called for reconsideration of the adoption of these standards. We believe the implementation of the Common Core Standards has been very beneficial for our students in a number of ways. First, they provide specific content knowledge and skills for every grade level across all schools in the state. This helps keep students on track in our increasingly mobile society. Second, they provide consistently more rigorous standards to ensure college and career readiness, which our employers and post-secondary institutions are looking for. Finally, the standards increase students' critical thinking ability as well as their ability to demonstrate their skills on practical tasks.

We are asking for your help to ensure that teachers and others have the resources necessary to continue to successfully implement these standards in our classrooms.

As we challenge students to reach these rigorous expectations, there will be struggles. We must all work together to bring these standards to life in the classroom, support all teachers, and engage all students in ways that help them achieve these new educational goals.

Our district continues to work to provide support for educators, students, parents, and others across the state to ensure they are prepared for these changes. We want to serve as a resource for you as you consider Wisconsin's approach to implementation of the new standards. Please visit www.commoncore.dpi.wi.gov to find useful information on the CCSS. Feel free to reach out with any questions you may have as we move forward in the implementation process.

Sincerely,

Joel Kitchens
School Board President

Joe Stutting
Superintendent